

**MONTANA PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION
CONFERENCE CALL
Draft Minutes**

March 31, 2009

Call to Order

The Montana Public Defender Commission meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Steve Nardi at 3:05 p.m.

Commissioners Present

Mike Sherwood, Missoula; Caroline Fleming, Miles City; Stephen Nardi, Kalispell; Jennifer Hensley, Butte; William Snell, Billings; Kenneth Olson, Great Falls; and Richard (Fritz) Gillespie, Helena

Commissioners Absent

Vic Miller, Harlem; Majel Russell, Billings; Tara Veazey, Helena; and Jim Taylor, Missoula

Interested Persons

Walter Hennessy, Assistant Public Defender, Butte; Sherry Staedler, Region 5 Deputy Public Defender; Deirdre Caughlan, Managing Attorney, Butte; Barb Kain, Human Resource Officer; Matt Thiel, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

Old Business/New Business

Chief Public Defender Randi Hood gave a brief update on the legislative session. House Bill 2 was heard last Thursday, and no amendments are expected on the OPD section of the bill, although some global amendments may be offered. House Bill 3, including the supplemental appropriation for the Appellate office, passed out of house committee. Senator Shockley's bill to revise public defender laws (HB 263) has been amended again.

Executive Session

Commissioner Nardi stated "The following portion of the meeting relates to matters of individual privacy. As Commission Vice Chairman, I have determined that the demands of individual privacy clearly exceed the merits of public disclosure. As such, this portion of the meeting will be closed."

The meeting was reopened at 3:40 p.m. The Commission asked Chief Hood and Administrative Director Harry Freebourn to consult with the governor's office to develop a media policy.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn

Commissioner Fleming moved to adjourn. Commissioner Hensley seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.